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GUARDING THE GLOBE
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NAUCK

GUARDING THE GLOBE

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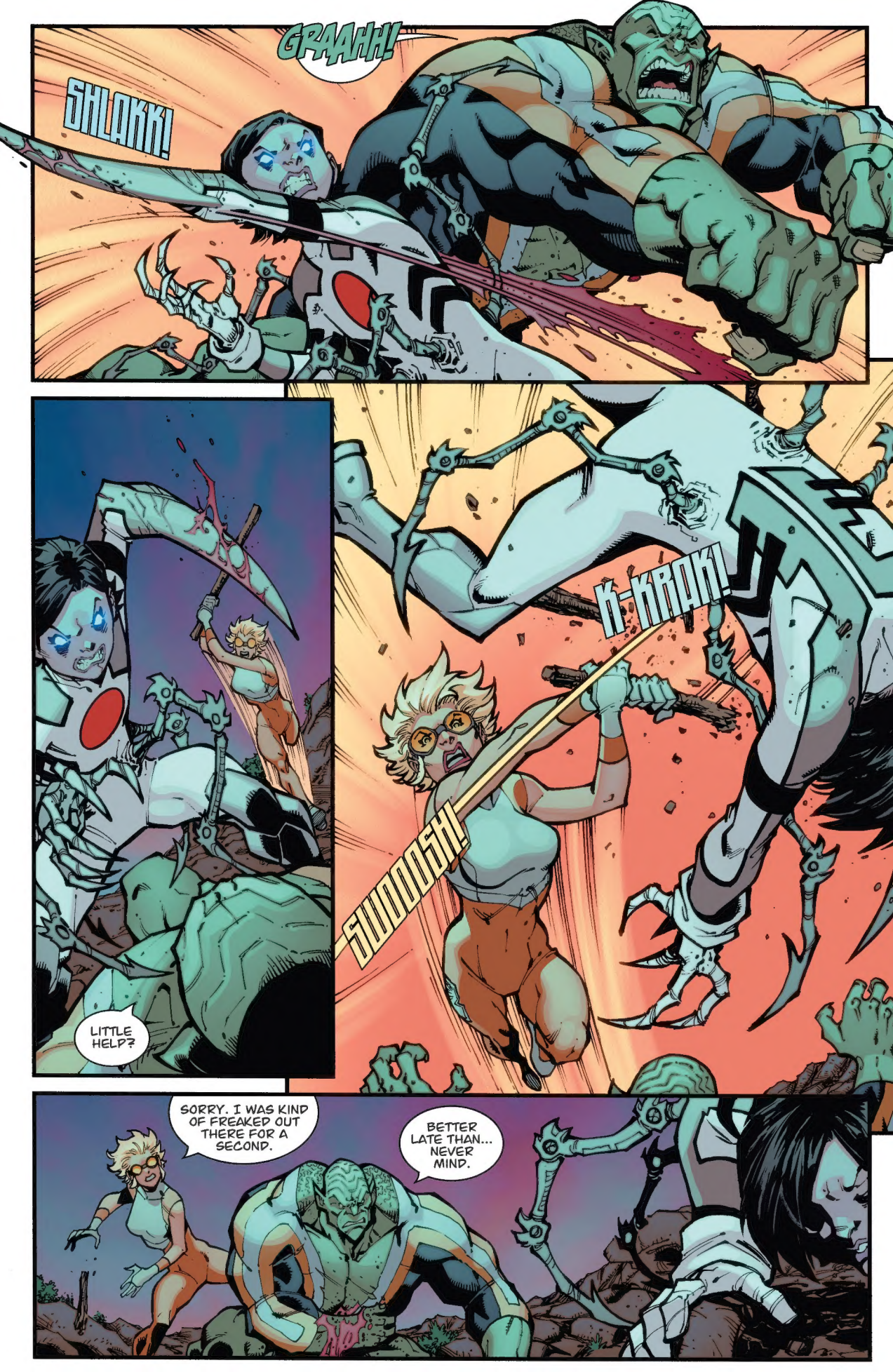
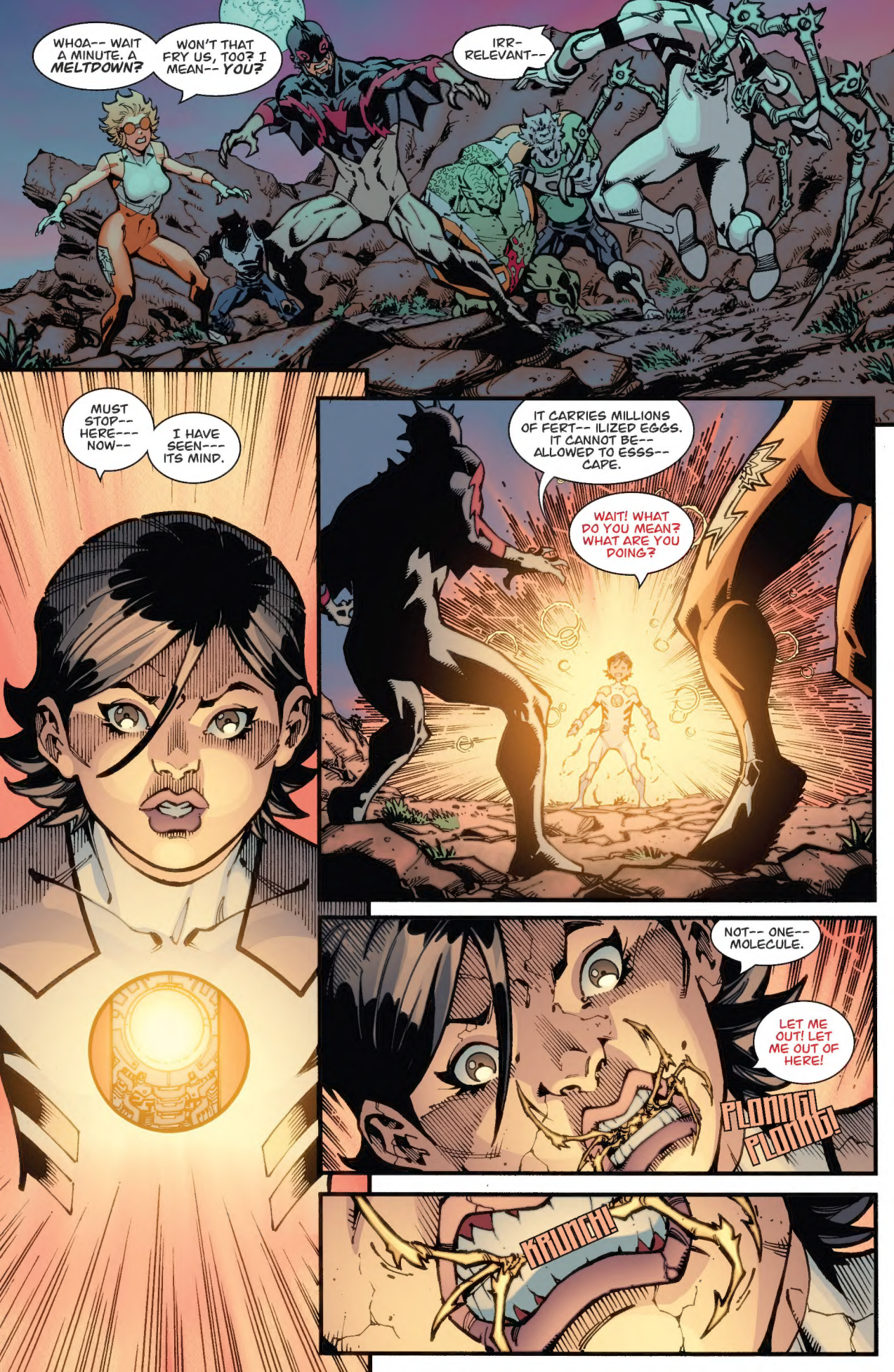
YES! ORGANIC BODIES ARE SUCH MESSY VESSELS.
THIS-- THIS IS A PRECISION INSTRUMENT!
UH, WHAT DO I DO HERE, GUYS?
WHAT DO I DO?

A LITTLE ANTISEPTIC, PERHAPS, BUT QUITE EFFICIENT.
SHE WILL BE THE PERFECT FORM FROM WHICH TO STRIKE AT YOUR MOST POWERFUL HEROES...
AND BREED WITHIN THEM.
NEGATIVE.
SYSTEM... OVERRIDE COUNTERED...
HEY!
NICE TRY, ROBOT.
BUT I DO YOUR THINKING NOW.
SO SMALL, BUT SO VERSATILE.

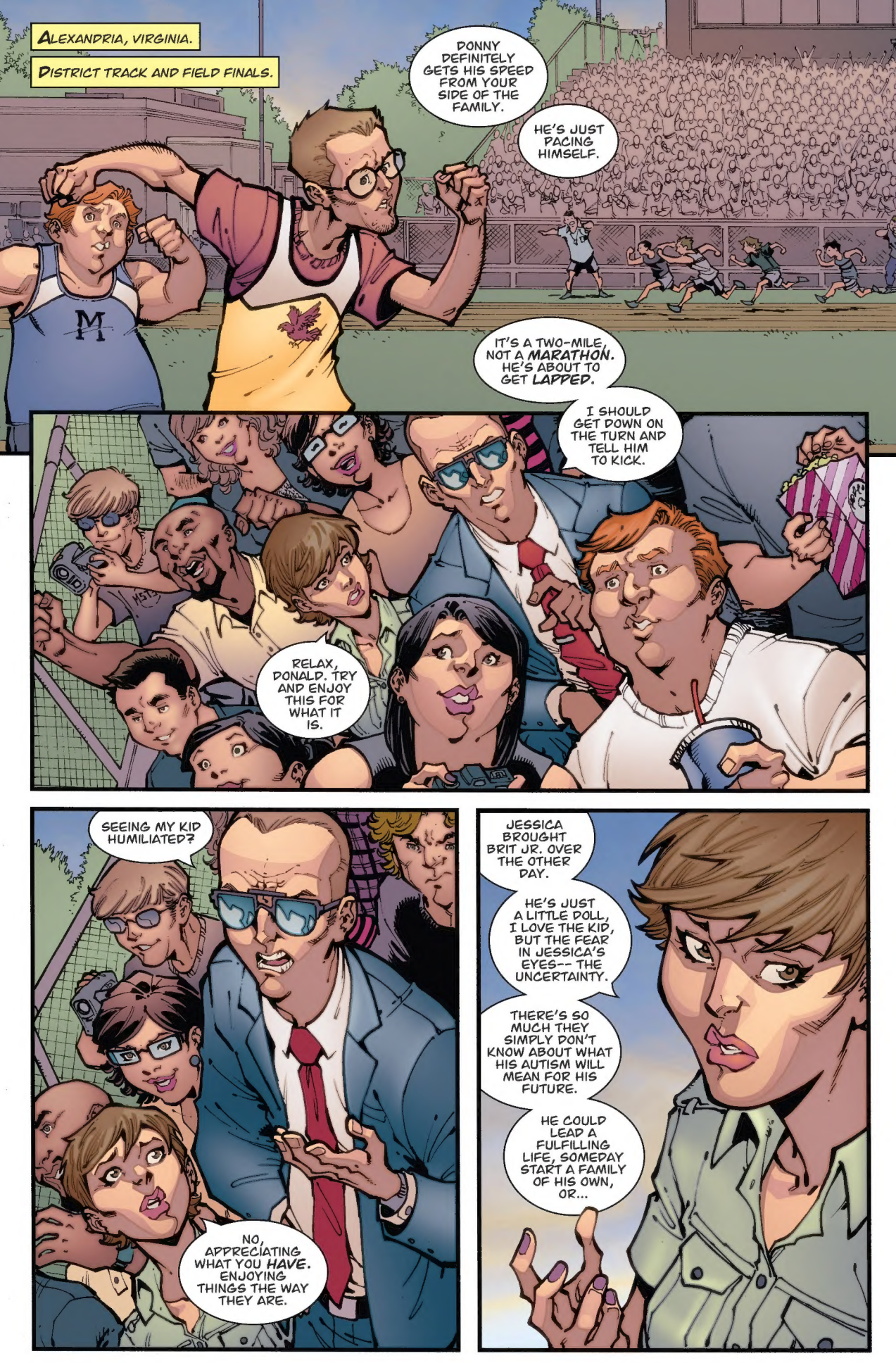

GRAAHH!
SHLAKK!
K-KRAK!
SWOOOSH!
LITTLE HELP?
SORRY. I WAS KIND OF FREAKED OUT THERE FOR A SECOND.
BETTER LATE THAN... NEVER MIND.

SO MANY FORMS THIS BODY CAN TAKE.
SHRIPP! SHLAKK!
WHY LIMIT MYSELF TO YOUR DISGUSTING BIPEDAL GAIT?
OH, GOD. THIS IS TOO MUCH. LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
NO. THIS CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER.

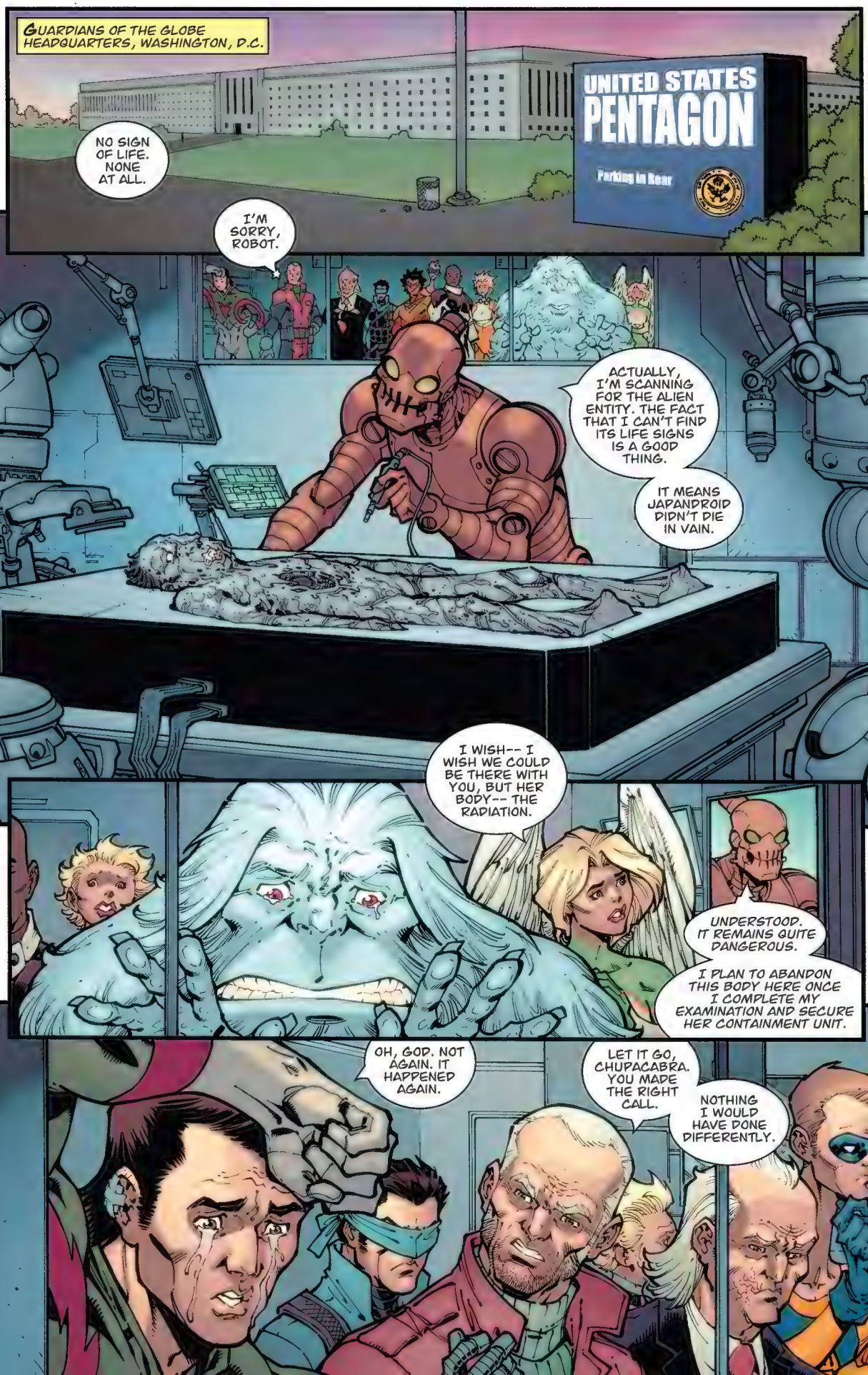
LOOK AT WHAT IT'S DOING WITH JAPANDROID.
IMAGINE THAT THING GAINING CONTROL OF INVINCIBLE OR MS. POPPER.
THERE'D BE NO STOPPING IT. IT WOULD OVERRUN THE PLANET IN DAYS.
THRUPP!
WE END IT HERE AND NOW.
KRAKK!
SPZZAK!
AG-G-GREEE--EED.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE JAPANDROID!
JAPANDROID, CAN YOU HEAR ME, KID?
P-PP--PLEASE STAND CLEAR.
ATT- TEMPTING TO EXPOSE AL- ALIEN HOST TO-- NUCLEAR CORE.


WHOA-- WAIT A MINUTE. A MELTDOWN?
WON'T THAT FRY US, TOO? I MEAN-- YOU?
IRR-RELEVANT--
MUST STOP-- HERE--- NOW--
I HAVE SEEN--- ITS MIND.
IT CARRIES MILLIONS OF FERT-- ILIZED EGGS. IT CANNOT BE-- ALLOWED TO ESSS-- CAPE.
WAIT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
NOT-- ONE-- MOLECULE.
LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
PLOMM! PLOMM!
KRUNCH!

GET BACK. SHE'S MELTING DOWN!
OH, MY GOD.
KID!
KID, SAY SOMETHING!
SAY...
SOMETHING...
CONGRATULATIONS, GUARDIANS.
WE JUST SAVED THE WORLD AGAIN.


ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.
DISTRICT TRACK AND FIELD FINALS.
DONNY DEFINITELY GETS HIS SPEED FROM YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
HE'S JUST PACING HIMSELF.
IT'S A TWO-MILE, NOT A MARATHON. HE'S ABOUT TO GET LAPPED.
I SHOULD GET DOWN ON THE TURN AND TELL HIM TO KICK.
RELAX, DONALD. TRY AND ENJOY THIS FOR WHAT IT IS.
SEEING MY KID HUMILIATED?
NO, APPRECIATING WHAT YOU HAVE. ENJOYING THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE.
JESSICA BROUGHT BRIT JR. OVER THE OTHER DAY.
HE'S JUST A LITTLE DOLL, I LOVE THE KID, BUT THE FEAR IN JESSICA'S EYES-- THE UNCERTAINTY.
THERE'S SO MUCH THEY SIMPLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT HIS AUTISM WILL MEAN FOR HIS FUTURE.
HE COULD LEAD A FULFILLING LIFE, SOMEDAY START A FAMILY OF HIS OWN, OR...

ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT, DESPITE ALL THE WEIRDNESS IN OUR LIVES, WAS HOW LUCKY WE ARE THAT DONNY IS HEALTHY AND HAPPY--
AND ABOUT TO GET PASSED BY THE FAT KID.
DONALD!
SERIOUSLY, THAT SHOT-PUTTER IS RIGHT ON HIS ASS. HE'S GOING TO FINISH LAST AGAIN.
HE'S RIGHT BEHIND YOU, DONNY! YOU HEAR ME?
M
YOU GOTTA KICK, SON! DON'T LET HIM PASS YOU!
Chhh-Whhcccr--Dzzz!
DO-- NOT-- LET-- THE-- FAT-- KID-- PASS-- YOU!
FAT KID?
UH... FINE LOOKING BOY YOU HAVE. FASTER THAN HE LOOKS.
I'LL BE IN THE CAR.

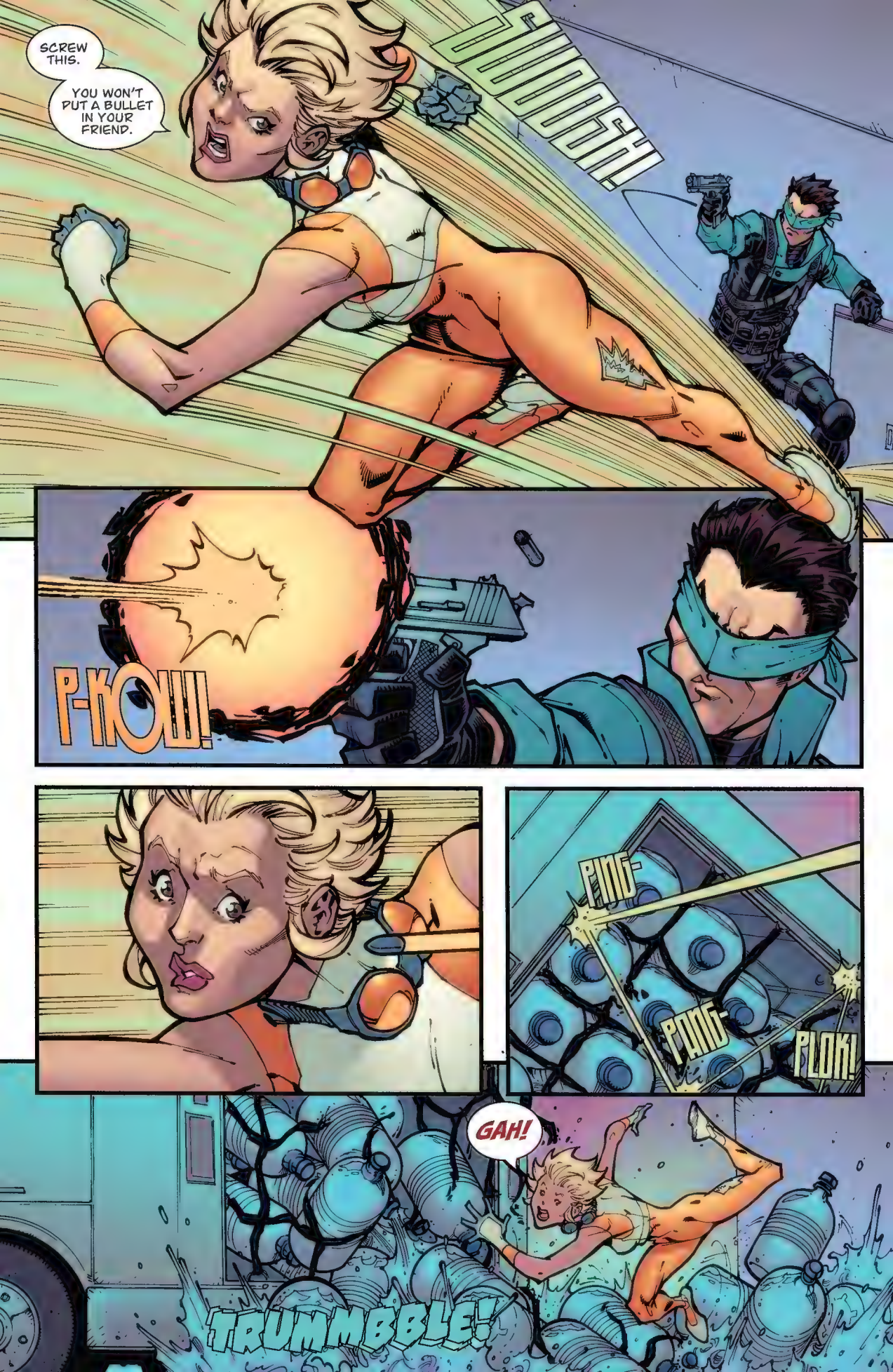

GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
UNITED STATES PENTAGON
Parking in Rear
NO SIGN OF LIFE. NONE AT ALL.
I'M SORRY, ROBOT.
ACTUALLY, I'M SCANNING FOR THE ALIEN ENTITY. THE FACT THAT I CAN'T FIND ITS LIFE SIGNS IS A GOOD THING.
IT MEANS JAPANDROID DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN.
I WISH-- I WISH WE COULD BE THERE WITH YOU, BUT HER BODY-- THE RADIATION.
UNDERSTOOD. IT REMAINS QUITE DANGEROUS.
I PLAN TO ABANDON THIS BODY HERE ONCE I COMPLETE MY EXAMINATION AND SECURE HER CONTAINMENT UNIT.
OH, GOD. NOT AGAIN. IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
LET IT GO, CHUPACABRA. YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL.
NOTHING I WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.

BUT SHE-- SHE--
OH, GOD.
SOMEONE STAY WITH HIM. HE'S GOING TO WANT A DRINK.
I'M ON IT.
YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S NO HOPE. SHE'S REALLY GONE?
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE.
THERE'S SO MUCH ABOUT HER WE'LL NEVER KNOW.
WHAT'S HE DOING WITH THAT BLACK STUFF?
HE'S BUILDING A SHIELD AROUND HER BODY. CONTAINING THE RADIATION.
IT LOOKS LIKE A COFFIN.
WHAT ELSE SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

SHE JUST APPEARED A FEW YEARS AGO, KICKING ASS, SAVING LIVES, PUTTING EVERYTHING SHE HAD ON THE LINE FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN.
AND SOON, WITH US, THE WHOLE WORLD.
DESPITE ALL MY EXPERTISE, I NEVER GOT A REAL HANDLE ON JUST WHAT SHE WAS.
I CAN'T-- I CAN'T WATCH THIS.
A COMPLEX ANDROID? A REMOTELY PILOTED ROBOT? A NEW FORM OF SENTIENT, SYNTHETIC LIFE?
WHO MADE HER, FOR WHAT PURPOSE-- NONE OF THAT MATTERS ANYMORE.
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS...
SHE MADE HERSELF A HERO.

HOW LONG?
EXCUSE ME?
HOW LONG YOU TAKE BODY OF OUTRUN?
YOU NEED TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR ENGLISH, TIGER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU NOT OUTRUN.
YOU NOT TALK LIKE OUTRUN. YOU NOT MOVE LIKE HER. YOU MORE SLOW.
SLOWER. YOU MEAN SLOWER.
YES. SLOWER. OUTRUN LOVE SPEED.
YOU HESITATE IN BATTLE. YOU FEAR SPEED.
I'LL SHOW YOU SPEED.
FWOOSH!

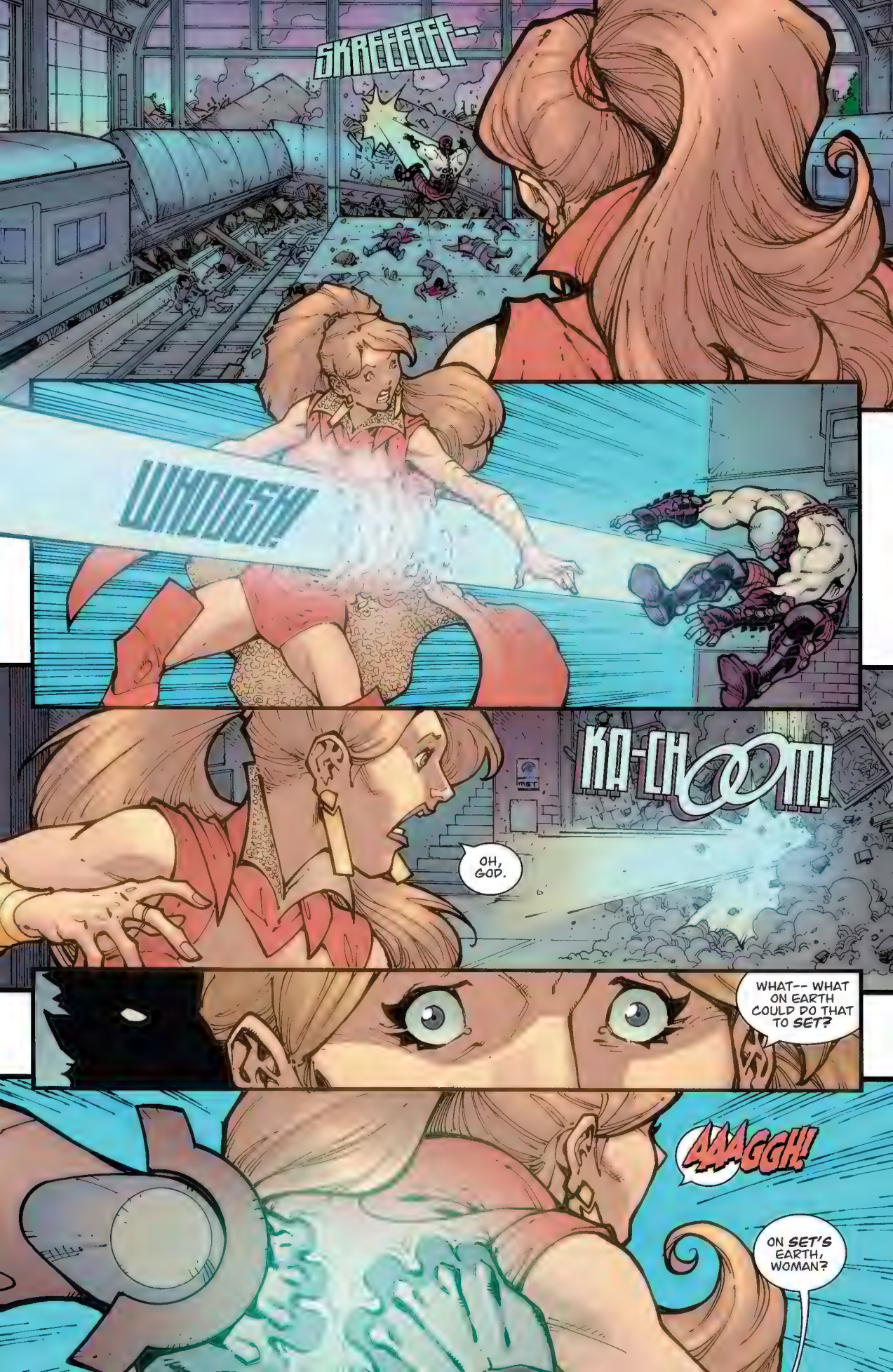
NO ONE'S FASTER THAN ME.
THUP! THUP! THUP!
IMPOSSIBLE.
NOT FASTER.
WHUUUSH!
WHOOOM!
THUP!
WUP!
THUP!
KNOW NOT WHERE YOU ARE.
ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU WILL BE.
WHUD!


SCREW THIS.
YOU WON'T PUT A BULLET IN YOUR FRIEND.
SWOOSH!
P-KOSH!
PING
PONG
PLOK!
GAH!
TRUMMBBLE!

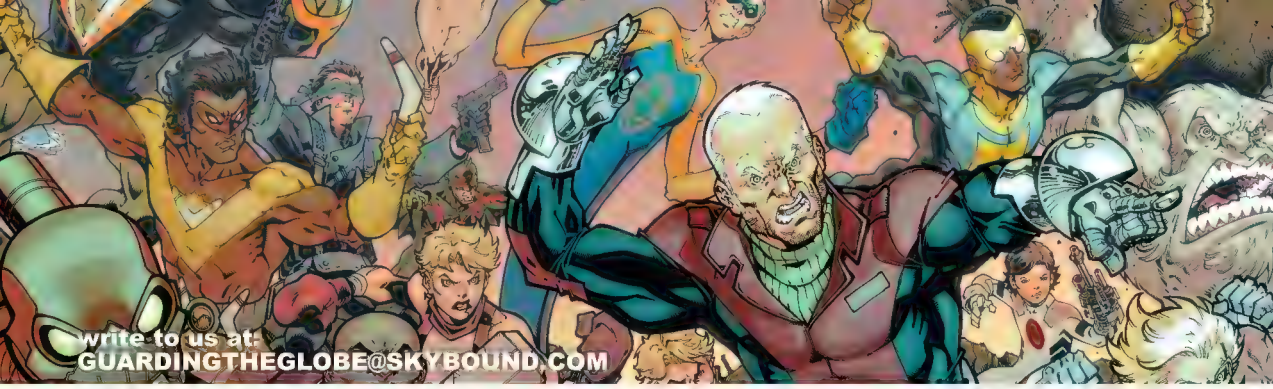
KRASH!
NOT FASTER THAN BULLET.
K-KLIK
HOW-- HOW DID YOU KNOW? NO ONE ELSE KNEW.
YOU'RE BLINDFOLDED, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
ARMPIT.
WHEN YOU RUN, WIND WHISTLES UNDER ARM, PAST WHISKER.
YOU SHAVE UP, AGAINST GRAIN. OUTRUN SHAVE DOWN.
NO WHISTLE.

NAME NOT GOOD TIGER...
BEST TIGER.
ARMPIT WHISKERS?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
I'M OUT.
IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.
WHOOSH
ABOUT FREAKING TIME SOMEONE FIGURED THAT OUT!
SO, SO GROSS.
PKOW! PKOW!
CAN'T SHOOT A GHOST, TIGER.

FORTY FEET BELOW CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI TERMINUS, MUMBAI, INDIA.
THE GUARDIANS ARE ON TO ME, SET.
THAT CHINESE GUNFIGHTER--
SET?
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
RRRMMBBLL!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
AAAIIIEEEE!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
MONSTERS! DEMONS FROM HELL!
PHOOM!
SET?


SKREEEEEE--
WHOOSH!
KA-CHOOM!
OH, GOD.
WHAT-- WHAT ON EARTH COULD DO THAT TO SET?
AAAGGH!
ON SET'S EARTH, WOMAN?

OR ON MINE?



Welcome back for another issue of GUARDING THE GLOBE. This is the one where I read Phil the riot act. I know Kirkman's currently plotting "The Death of Everyone," but are you trying to go toe-to-toe with him? Japandroid and Embrace?! That's one more than we agreed upon. It was a gentleman's agreement.

You didn't see the contract Robert made me sign. I am compelled to kill a character every issue now.

Omg is that The Astounding Wolfman? Thank you :P

-Leo Nieves

Sent from my iPhone

Yes it is! For those of you not familiar with the Astounding Wolfman, get familiar! He was the star of his own werewolf superhero comic by Robert Kirkman and Jason Howard. All sorts of recognizable faces show up—Cecil, Capes, Invincible!—and the complete series is available in four trade paperbacks.

They really are awesome comics. I bought them all. In fact, this whole gig is me just trying to earn back all the money I've spent on Kirkman books over the years.

Howdy dowdy!

I love what you've done with the place, it has that feeling of home I recognize and yet isn't. And by place I mean the Invincible Universe. I really do love this comic so far, Best Tiger is proving to be a personal favorite. And bringin' back Mauler! The twins were my favorite villains right up until that unfortunate run in with Omni-Boy. And where is Le Brusier this issue???

This cast is spectacular though, both old and new! And their dialogue is glory all the time. From the simple one-liners to the build-up to Yeti admitting he can't swim. I love it, thank you Phil Hester!

Phil, dazzle the fans with a one-liner!

Once again, Sean. I'm not paid for this lettercol.

And to have to show some love for the art and coloring, it's been done so well that I give major props to Todd Nauck and John Rauch. You two have taken characters I am familiar with, and made them look amazing in your own way. It's just different enough that it doesn't push me away, but draws me in without looking exactly like Ottley and Walker's work.

Keep up the good work! I look forward to next month, and I hope to see more of Le Brusier.

Sincerely,

Jacob S Davidson

Todd & John are comics gods. The cover price you pay is more like a tithe.

Globe Trotters,

Well done all. Kudos! Very engaging, touching, fun, and action packed comics. I'm looking forward to future shenanigans. Quick question: is that Brittany that has the boxing gloves? I think a roll call of sorts would not hurt new readers, but at this point you are already on issue 5 at least, so it's kind of moot now. Love what I'm seeing, and the cast is so vast that there are so many awesome possibilities for future stories to look forward to. Keep up the great work.

Best wishes,

Michael
AKA @Dreadnaut

Issue 5?! Phil and Todd just started their EIGHTH issue together.

Brittany is Brit's real name. The lady with the boxing gloves is Knockout, who first appeared in Kirkman's CAPES. We try our best to give everyone their proper introductions, but maybe we could do a GUARDIANS role call page. At least with Japandroid gone, that's one less to keep track of.

To be honest, I am subscribing to the deep end theory of learning to swim in the Kirkman-verse. If our comic is done well enough-- and God knows everyone is doing their level best-- you will be so entranced by the myriad characters you'll roll with it. Sort of like Greek mythology or Marvel continuity. The bewildering tapestry of wild characters and histories is like a puzzle you can't wait to put together.

Phil,

Maybe the best new team series in ever!!! Something tells me even Kirkman couldn't do it any better. So keep 'em coming--the new characters, that is!

Andrew J. Shaw

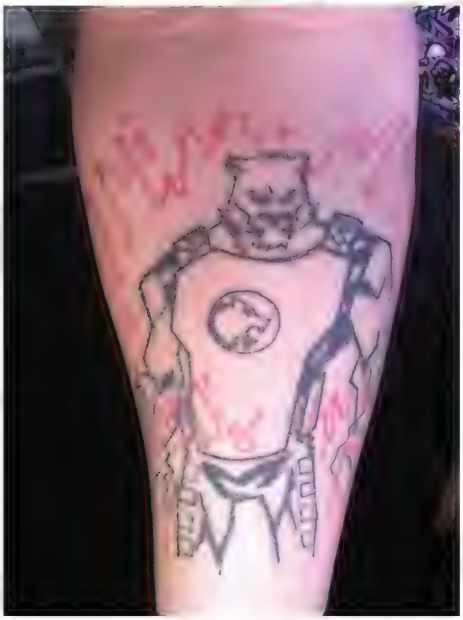
No, he couldn't! He wasn't even man enough to try!

He's hiding behind his 300K selling comic book and smash hit TV show. It's obvious.

Hello,

I've been a big fan of Kirkman's Invincible universe since I picked up my first INVINICBLE trade a few years back, and I really like seeing the story focus on the other heroes in the universe. Especially Wolf-Man! He is by far my favorite character. So the end of this issue really left me dying for the next. I can't wait to see what you guys do with the character. Todd Nauck is taking on a ton of characters and doing an amazing job! Thank you guys so much for making this a monthly title.

Here is the start of my Wolf-Man tattoo. Hoping to finish it in Nov if I don't spend all my money at Long Beach Comic Con haha.



Thomas Kleve

That is INSANE. Phil, you got any tattoos you care to share?

Well, I WAS going to get a sweet Wolf-Man tat, but now...

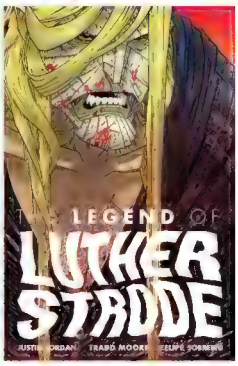
Thanks for picking our book up. Be here next month as my favorite villain ruins Brit's date night. And, actually, I'm sure whoever your favorite villain is, they show up as well. And probably kill another character you like. Don't get attached!
-Sean

When we run out of characters to kill, we move to staff. Editors first!

-Phil

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!

INVINCIBLE #98
ON SALE NOW



THE LEGEND OF LUTHER STRODE #1 (of 6)
ON SALE NOW

THIEF OF THIEVES #11
ON SALE NEXT WEEK

KRISHNA™

A JOURNEY WITHIN

by

Abhishek Singh

Those who are remembered
are those who left
something behind.

DECEMBER 2012

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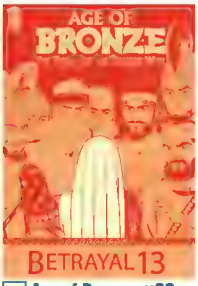
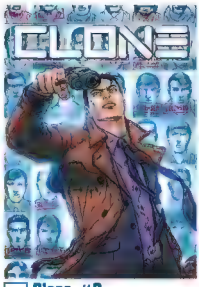
☐ The Activity #10



☐ Age of Bronze #32

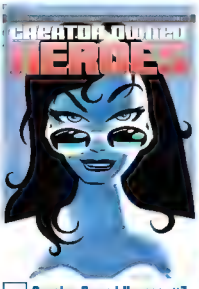
☐ Artifacts #23

☐ Change #1 (of 4)



☐ Clone #2

☐ Comeback #2 (of 5)



☐ Creator Owned Heroes #7

☐ Cyber Force #2

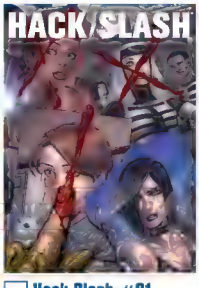
☐ Darkness #109

☐ Elephantmen #45

☐ Glory #31

☐ Great Pacific #2

☐ Guarding the Globe #4



☐ Hack Slash #21

☐ Happy #3 (of 4)

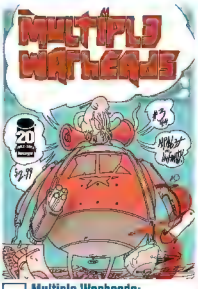
☐ I Love Trouble #1

☐ Invincible #98

☐ Manhattan Projects #8

☐ Mind The Gap #7

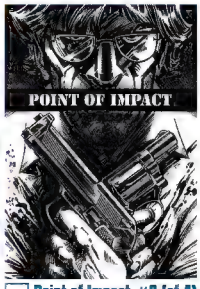
☐ Morning Glories #24



☐ Multiple Warheads: Alphabet to Infinity #3 (of 4)

☐ Non-Humans #2 (of 4)

☐ Nowhere Men #2



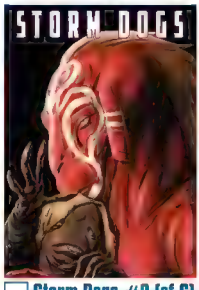
☐ Point of Impact #3 (of 4)

☐ Prophet #32

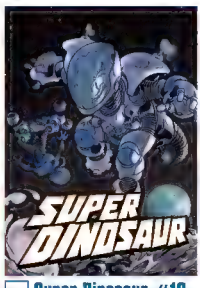
☐ Saga #8

☐ Savage Dragon #184

☐ Spawn #226



☐ Storm Dogs #2 (of 6)



☐ Super Dinosaur #16

☐ Thief of Thieves #11

☐ The Walking Dead #105

☐ Where is Jake Ellis #2 (of 5)

☐ Witch Doctor: Mal Practice #2 (of 6)

☐ Witchblade #162

☐ Youngblood #75

Question of the Month

"What would you want your superpower to be and how would you use it?"

Justin Jordan
THE STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE

Ron Marz
WITCHER

Abhishek Singh
CRUSHER & FIGHTER WITH

DECEMBER 2012

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3D DEGREE
BRIAN WOOD

Image Comics published Brian Wood's first series, Channel Zero, in 1997 to considerable critical acclaim, and Wood has continued to produce comics and graphic novels at a brisk pace ever since. Focusing almost entirely on creator-owned works, he's become one of the most notable creators of the last decade. He's earned multiple Eisner Award nominations and editions of his work have been published in close to a dozen foreign languages. He is most known for original series such as DMZ, Northlanders, Demo, and Local.

Starting in 2012, Wood kicked off the second major phase of his career with the original series The Massive and Anthem, as well as Star Wars and Conan the Barbarian for Dark Horse Comics and The X-Men for Marvel. His creator-owned collaboration with artist Ming Doyle, MARA, will be published by Image Comics in December.

What are you working on right now?
I'm getting notes from an issue of X-Men from my editor, and planning on knocking out a Star Wars script by the end of the week. I'm actually heading to a Star Wars convention this weekend, and then by Monday I have an Ultimate X-Men due. (And since this interview took me a couple days, separated by a week, to complete, here's bonus answer: today it's an issue of The Massive)

What's the best part of your job?
The best part is always the fact I can work at home, in my own space, in a (mostly) quiet house and still feel connected to my family. I stopped having to commute and sit in an office ten years ago and I'm still grateful on a daily basis. Any time that I have a stress dream, it's always about that: going back to a day job in a cubicle.

What's the worst part of your job?
Deadlines. There's a lot of perks to being a comics writer, but one of the biggest responsibilities, if not THE biggest, is that everyone else is counting on me to deliver work so they can eat. The writer's at the top of that assembly line and nothing moves if I screw up.

How did you first discover comics?
I was in art school, majoring in illustration, and someone told me that these editorial illustrators I knew and liked – Dave McKean, Kent Williams, Bill Sienkiewicz – also made comic books. So I got a late start, but I came into it the right way: seeking out creators and their creator-owned work.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
I'd still be working in design, I'm sure. I had a career doing graphic design for the videogame industry before I quit to go write comics. I'm sure I'd be sitting in a cubicle somewhere hating my life.

What's the best thing a fan has ever said to you?
I'm sure I'm forgetting some awesome story, but something I hear a lot is that one of my books was the gateway drug for someone's friend or girlfriend or boyfriend, or that one of my books was what got someone back into comics after a long time away. That's really the best compliment, that one of my books made someone love comics. Hard to top that.

I did, however, just find out that I met Jordie Bellaire, colorist on Mara, at some show when she was THIRTEEN and sold her a copy of one of my books. I've never felt older.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
I don't know. Haha! I don't know how to answer that. It's not any one thing, or one person. My work is sort of all over the place in terms of tone and subject matter and I think my inspiration is probably just as varied.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
Local and Northlanders. I can't pick just one. Right now, it's those two books.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
Wheeling and dealing on eBay, mostly vintage guitars and related equipment. That's not really a thing to be guilty about, but the volume and frequency I have going on probably is. Its best if no one knows the details.

What was the last comic book you bought?
Probably Peter Bagge's RESET from Dark Horse. I have an open subscription to the Dark Horse Digital store so everything there is available to me for free, but I still bought RESET. Peter Bagge is a creator I unconditionally love; HATE was the first series I bought and read, and he's earned a lifetime of loyalty from me.

If you could be someone else for a day, who would it be?
I don't even want to be someone else, but I do wish I had other people's talents.

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
The Pogues, Wilco, the Jesus and Mary Chain.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
I'm way too boring to have oddities and curiosities in the house, to be honest. Well, I do have a set of taxidermy coathooks made out of deer legs, which my wife finds horrifying, but that's the sort of thing I grew up with so I actually think its comforting.

What makes you laugh?
Most things make me laugh at some level, which is a good thing. I think its how I keep sane.

What is one of your favorite places?
I grew up in Vermont, and each time I visit I fall more and more back in love with the place.

What music are you listening to these days?
I grew up listening to exclusively folk, both American and Celtic, and until I was allowed to buy my own music, which was probably age 14, that's what I listened to. That, and the Beatles, thanks to my older sister. In recent years I've been rediscovering all that folk and finding a lot of comfort in it and I feel pretty blessed to have had that exposure early on and for so many years. Not to sound like a snob, but I'm happy to have been raised with that level of music than the sort of stuff my own kids seem to be attracted to, which isn't all that bad but its pretty shallow in comparison to someone like Pete Seeger.

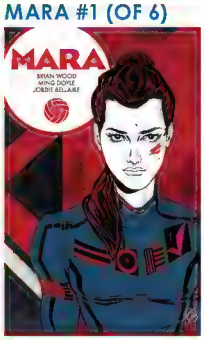
Who is your best friend?
My wife, of course.

What is the best advice you've ever received?
As it pertains to the business of comics, there is one bit that rises above all else: no one cares about your book more than you do. That sounds sort of bland and general, but especially when dealing with original creations, you need to be very careful with what you own.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
I have a really bad habit of daydreaming these horrible worst case scenarios and playing them out in my head. I think I must do this as some sort of subconscious-level catharsis, but when I carry my little kid down the stairs, sometimes I think about tripping and falling, sustaining injuries, the ER, and so on. It gets grim and often really freaks me out. Why do I do that?

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
A big increase in digital readership in sales and the direct market remaining unaffected. Then we can all relax a little bit, realize there is nothing to worry about, and get on with it.

MARA #1 (OF 6)



The story of an especially gifted woman in a sports and war-obsessed future. Young Mara Prince is at the top of the world, a global celebrity in a culture that prizes physical achievement above all else. After she manifests supernatural abilities on live TV, she becomes famous all over again but for the worst reasons.

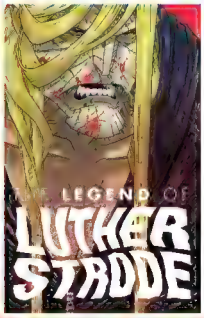
HIP FLASK: OURBOROUS

LADRÖNN, Eisner award winner for his work on HIP FLASK: MYSTERY CITY, returns for the penultimate issue in the series. Sahara is dead, but both Hip Flask and Obadiah Norn are determined to save her!

BLACKACRE #1

100 YEARS AFTER THE FALL... A NEW GREAT GAME BEGINS. A retired soldier on a secret mission, sent out from the walled city and the only life he's ever known into the violent wilderness of the world after the fall. Tribal cults, roaming bands of barbarians, vicious warlords! A startling new take on the post-apocalypse and the most suspicious comics debut of the year!

THE LEGEND OF LUTHER STRODE #1



Luther Strode lives. Five years after losing everything, Luther has become more than a nightmare for the evil men in his city... he has become a legend. But somebody is hunting the boogeyman and he has dangerous allies that Luther will never expect. Luther Strode lives: but for how long? The sequel to 2011's breakout hit begins here!

a screenwriting car thief.

an obscenely wealthy rapper.

a dying cosmonaut.

los angeles' last chance.

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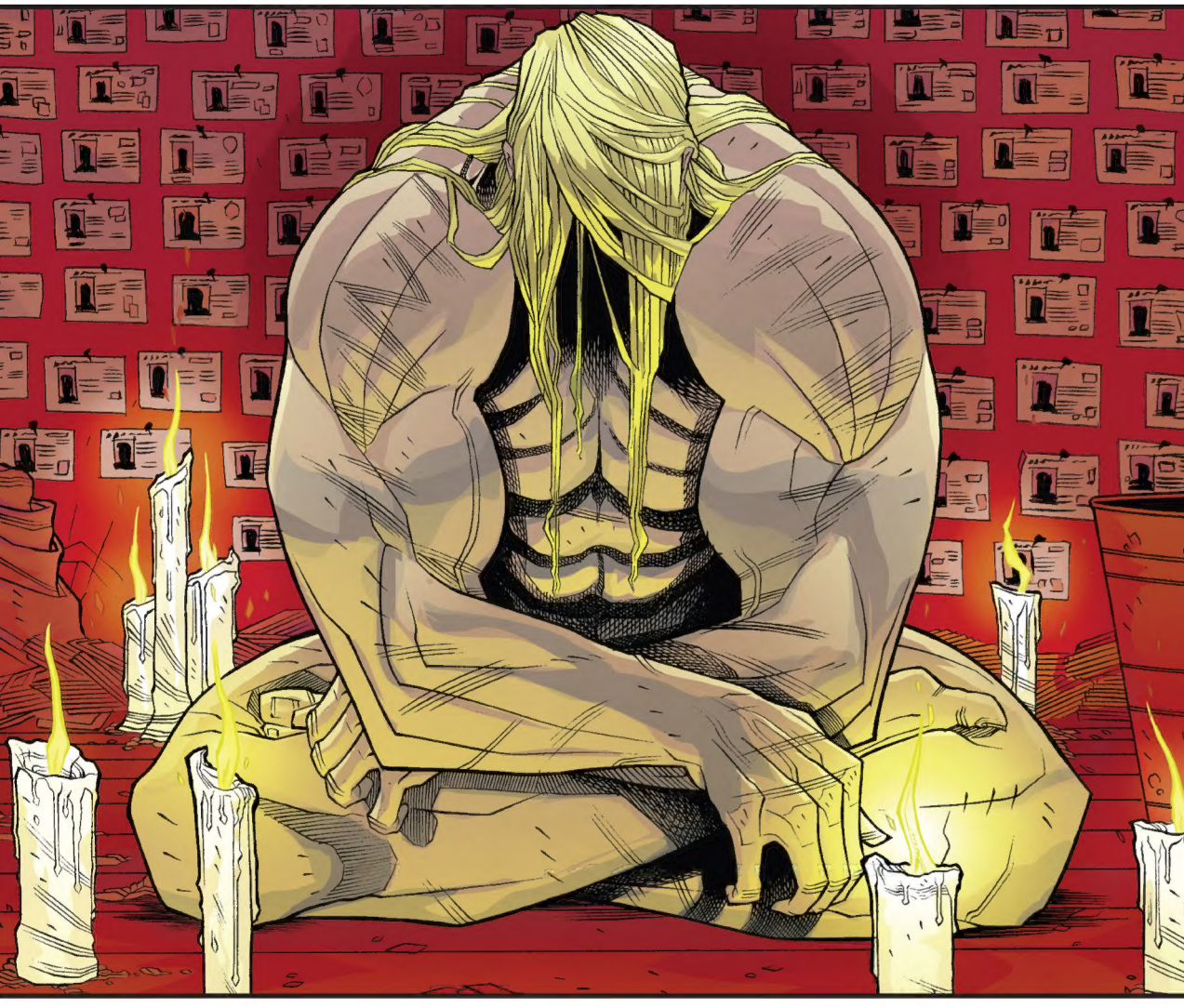

THE **LEGEND** OF LUTHER STRODE™

JUSTIN JORDAN **TRADD MOORE** **FELIPE SOBREIRO**

DECEMBER 2012

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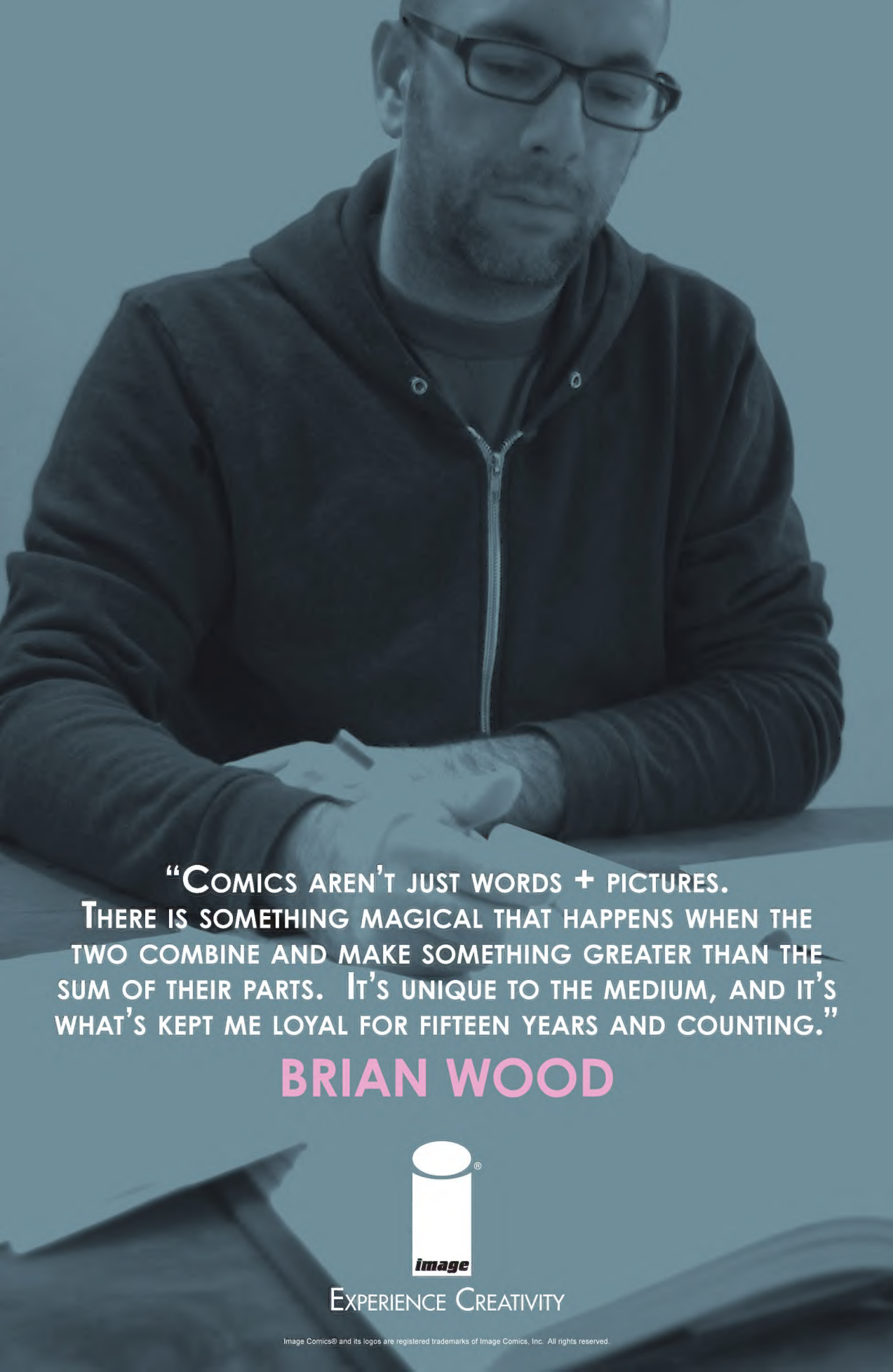
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THERE IS SOMETHING MAGICAL THAT HAPPENS WHEN THE TWO COMBINE AND MAKE SOMETHING GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS. IT'S UNIQUE TO THE MEDIUM, AND IT'S WHAT'S KEPT ME LOYAL FOR FIFTEEN YEARS AND COUNTING."
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